



Safety Gram

Marine Corps Mishap Synopsis & Lessons Learned

Safety Division's Monthly *Safety Gram* is provided to senior leaders to maintain awareness of mishap trends that directly affect the operational readiness of the Corps. This information should also be disseminated at every level of your command to assist high-risk Marines and Sailors in understanding the impact of the decisions they make every day both on and off-duty.

November 2012: Mishap Summary

The Mishaps below occurred throughout the Marine Corps from November 1st—November 30st, 2012 causing serious injury or death to Marines, and/or damage to equipment.

04 November 2012: A Marine was thrown from his motorcycle after hitting debris on the road. Emergency services pronounced the Marine dead at the scene.

10 November 2012: A Marine died in his sleep after the water heater malfunctioned and released a lethal amount of carbon monoxide into the bedroom.

15 November 2012: A Marine participating in a parade, was injured after the float he was riding on was struck by a train. The Marine suffered serious internal injuries and died at the hospital.



29 November 2012: A Marine collapsed in his shop after returning from PT. CPR was immediately administered and the Marine was taken to the hospital. He was pronounced dead approximately 1 hour after collapsing.

Aviation Mishaps:

3 Nov 12: F/A-18C damaged by FOD during shipboard operations.

7 Nov 12: The aft transmission oil pressure limits of a CH-46E were exceeded during ground turn at MCAS Camp Pendleton.

12 Nov 12: A tow tractor backed into the nose cone on an AV-8B in Camp Bastion AFG.

14 Nov 12: A Marine severed his thumb while performing maintenance on a CH-53E helicopter rotor head.

27 Nov 12: The port flaperons of an EA-6B were damaged while folding the wings during a low power turn up at MCAS Cherry Point.

28 Nov 12: An AH-1W had a hard landing to the parallel taxiway at MCAS Camp Pendleton.

18 November 2012: A Marine was riding a motorcycle without a DOT approved helmet. Failing to negotiate a right turn caused him to collide with a concrete median. The Marine was ejected from the motorcycle and he skidded across the opposite lanes of travel. During the slide his head impacted a concrete curb causing severe head trauma, and was pronounced dead at the scene.



Did You Know: Force Preservation Program 101

Keeping faith with our Marines, Sailors, and families is one of the Marine Corps' top priorities. Accordingly, one of a leader's premier responsibilities is the task of protecting the force. Therefore, it is integral to leaders at every level to make force preservation paramount and pervasive in all they do.

How do Units Execute "Force Preservation?"

**Force Preservation must be at all levels
and in every facet of command.**

1. **Assign a Trained/Qualified Safety Officer**—Give this Marine/civilian direct access to the CO & XO for Force Preservation (FP) and safety related matters.
2. **Establish the Force Preservation Council**— Primary board members comprised of the CO or XO, the Sergeant Major, company commanders, company first sergeants, and the medical officer. Additional members include platoon commanders and/or platoon Sergeant, Chaplain, SACO, legal officer, safety officer, FRO, OSCAR Team rep, Suicide awareness officer. The council shall meet monthly to identify at-risk Marines.
3. **Establish a NCO Safety Council**—Small unit leadership is an integral part to FP and safety. These frontline leaders throughout the unit are the Marines who should be laying the foundation for FP at all levels.
4. **Command Mentorship Program**—As a precursor to any Force Preservation Council, leaders should be taking the time to audit and view the Marines under their charge as mentors. Though op-tempo may hinder formal counseling sessions, NCO mentors should be creative and find time to mentor and talk to their mentees everyday. Leaders should review mentorship jackets regularly to ensure documentation is being made on every Marine and Sailor.
5. **Establish Safety Reporting Mechanisms**— Reporting is an important element to FP programs. Having examinable data helps Marines identify trends and aids in stopping foreseeable FP and safety issues.
6. **Conduct Safety Stand Downs**— Stand downs should be conducted more often than just prior to 72 & 96 hour liberties. Cover issues such as traffic safety, suicide prevention and awareness, drinking and driving prevention and awareness, inclement weather driving awareness, combat/operational stress control, kitchen and cooking safety (emphasized during the holidays and before summer grilling season), domestic violence awareness and prevention, recreation safety, and mishap lessons learned.
7. **FP and Safety Education**— Education is at the forefront of any FP and safety program. Units are encouraged to contact the installation safety offices for assistance with education. Education is also vital to other aspects of FP such as identifying at risk Marines with; PTSD, TBI, Suicidal, & alcoholism.
8. **New Join Briefs**—Creating new-join briefs is an important tool to make sure newly joined personnel are rapidly inducted into the unit's safety campaign. New joins should know the safety policy and the tools to prevent mishaps.
9. **Assessing the Force Preservation program**—In order to assess the FP program's effectiveness, units are encouraged to utilize CMC Safety Division's Marine Corps' Ground Climate Assessment Survey System (**GCASS**) (www.semperfisurveys.org). Units have the choice of many safety surveys targeting different populations to include "Driving and Drinking," "Off Duty and Recreational Activities," and "Motorcycles" surveys. After each survey, the CO or XO will receive a personal debrief that provides an in-depth analysis of the findings. The feedback is exactly the type of input units need to refocus or realign their efforts.



Tools for Safety & Force Preservation

- **Travel Risk Planning Services (TRiPS)** - [Marine Corps TRiPS](#)
TRiPS is a travel planning tool available to Marines. A Marine logs in and inputs their travel info; destination, route, sleeping plans, and weather predictions. The system then evaluates and assesses the plan, making recommendations in order to lower the Marine's risk.
- **Arrive Alive Card Program**— This program ensures every unit member is equipped with a safe means of transportation should they become unable to lawfully operate a vehicle. The program should be well advertised, and must ensure there will be no negative connotation associated with the it's use. The unit can present the first Marine to successfully use the arrive alive card with a letter of appreciation from the CO in front of a unit safety stand down to address a positive culture around the programs use.
- **NCO Leave and Liberty Policy**— (CMC White Letter 02-08)
Allows NCOs to cancel or suspend liberty privileges for those Marines they deem to be liberty risks. The CO should personally deliver the message at all unit formations and stand downs that he would fully support any NCO who made savvy and responsible decisions with respect to suspending his Marines' liberty plans. This program has proven effective, and empowers NCOs to make the tough but appropriate decisions.
- **Motorcycle Club and Mentorship Program**— Unit clubs and mentors should focus on identifying and mentoring inexperienced riders, foster respectable riding practices, and ensure continuing education opportunities are available. Mentors will be the most experienced riders who have the ability to teach and incorporate junior riders into the unit and build positive safe riding practices.



- **Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned**—(MCCLL) Information and newsletters should be posted unit-wide and used to pass valuable information to all personnel. MCCLL should be used in conjunction with safety stand downs and training. (www.mccll.usmc.mil)
- **Mishap Reporting**—Why do we report? The sole purpose is mishap prevention. In order to prevent future mishaps, trends must be identified through data analysis of reported incidents. Mishaps can be reported through [WESS](#) or by submitting your commands flash report to your unit safety officer.
- **Force Preservation Training**—Distribute informational materials, publish news, maintain reference materials, utilize mar-quees, signs, command television, etc. Coordinate special safety events; fairs, operational pauses, guest speakers, etc.

Force Preservation is an everyday responsibility of all Marines, from the new Private to the senior General. Marine Corps Leadership Principles state "Know your Marines and look out for their welfare." All Marines must guard against reckless behavior. Being a Marine is a risky occupation. As Marines we must learn to manage this risk by controlling and mitigating hazards in our on-duty and off-duty lives.

There is no simple or single solution for Force Preservation. In order to identify underlying issues or behaviors that may lead to mishaps, all Marines are encouraged to reinforce engaged leadership this will help you gain the whole picture of the each Marines situation.

